



For Immediate Release
 October 27, 2007
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Sadr City to soon see increase in potable water availability

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Under construction for three years, the R-3 Water Treatment Plant located near Sadr City in East Baghdad is nearing completion and when fully operational early next year will produce 25 million gallons of potable water daily for residents in that area. (USACE photo)

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Sadr City residents will soon see a significant improvement in potable water availability.

Construction is nearing completion on over \$75 million in work including a new water treatment plant and new water lines to more than 80 percent of Sadr City's 2.5 million population. The R-3 Water Treatment Plant will have the capacity to produce 4,000 cubic meters of potable water per hour (25 million gallons each day) which will significantly supplement the existing water supply.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along with the Baghdad Amanat / Baghdad Water Authority are involved in this undertaking and the work is scheduled to be completed by January. Ministry of Elec-

tricity is ensuring that R-3 is hooked up to the national grid and Ministry of Oil is allocating diesel fuel for the back-up generators available for emergencies.

Mohammad Juwaree, the USACE Iraqi project engineer overseeing the work at R-3 as well as the new water lines going in at Sadr City, says it is definitely been a joint effort and because of everyone's support, "we've overcome numerous challenges and are making great progress."

Over \$20 million is being invested to install new water lines in 68 of Sadr City's 79 sectors. The majority of that work is already finished.

The Tigris River is the source of raw water supplied by the Al Sadr Qana'at Pump Station. More than \$5 million was

allocated to rehabilitating that facility including the installation of four new large intake pumps and renovation of four existing ones.

The new \$50 million R-3, located on the west side of Sadr City, has been under construction for three years and will soon be in the "wet test commissioning" phase when water is pumped through the various treatment stages to ensure everything is operating as required. "Once it passes those inspections and testing, it will be ready to go on line," Juwaree explained.

"Sadr City residents are anxiously awaiting that day. They've historically had low or no water pressure and this effort definitely will improve their quality of life. This is huge news for everyone in Baghdad," he added.

Juwaree earned a civil engineering degree from Baghdad University and has worked for USACE for two years. As a proud member of the team overseeing the Sadr City improvements, he said, "It clearly demonstrates the Iraqi government is taking the lead helping residents with their essential service needs. It's a great example what can be accomplished when everyone works together."



A welder gets a pipe joint ready for connection at the new R-3 water treatment plant nearing completion. (USACE photo)



Concrete form anchoring a raw water elbow is put in place. The new R-3 Water Treatment Plant, with a capacity of producing 25 million gallons daily, is being constructed in east Baghdad and will significantly improve potable water availability to Sadr City residents. (USACE photo)

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